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20 November 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence,
Department of the Army

ATTENTION: Chief, Technical Division

SUBJECT: Geographic Research on the Caribbean

REFERENCE: USIB-D-48.4/2, 22 October 1959, Subject:
Improvement of Internal Security in Latin America.

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25X1A9a 1. Reference is made to recent discussions between [REDACTED] of this Agency and Messrs. Frank Loupoue, Louis Laipold, and Clifton Blackburn of the Engineer Strategic Intelligence Division, Army Map Service, on the above subject.

2. Surveillance of events in various Caribbean and South American countries over the past six months has led to the placement of priority requests on the Geographic Research Area, GSA, for geographic intelligence in support of plans and analyses. Research effort is to be directed toward identifying and describing those geographic factors that should be particularly considered in dealing with situations of increasingly grave concern to the United States. Countries on which research has been initiated are Cuba, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Honduras.

3. Initial review of the project has disclosed the existence of serious deficiencies in the basic geographic data needed. Of particular concern are informational gaps related to cities and towns, transportation facilities, communication nets, terrain features, and climate. In view of the size of the undertaking, and the complexity problem reflected in the referenced memorandum, it is felt that expeditious accomplishment will require a coordinated effort among components best equipped to produce the kind of information desired.

4. It is therefore requested that the assistance of the Engineer Strategic Intelligence Division be made available on the topics cited. As discussed with Messrs. Loupoue, Laipold, and Blackburn, such assistance would include the assessment of available materials,

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assembly of pertinent data on manuscript overlays to existing maps, and preparation of brief interpretive text. Tentatively, a schedule of at least one country per month is desirable. Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

FOR THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, RESEARCH AND REPORTS

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Chief, Geographic Research

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